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# SOLIA

THE HERALD

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**OUR COVER:** The icon of Mid-Pentecost (Wednesday of the fourth week after Easter) from St. Therapontios Church in Thessaloniki, Greece, shows our Lord Jesus Christ as a beardless adolescent (Luke 2:41-50), as he must have been when he was twelve years old, teaching the elders in the temple, astonishing them by his wisdom. The gospel reading for the feast (John 7:14-36) speaks of Christ going into the Temple to teach in the middle of the Jewish feast of Tabernacles celebrated in autumn. The meaning of this icon is that Christ is timeless, being the true Wisdom of the Father at all times, even in childhood and adolescence; and, his adolescence also bears witness to the truth of his Incarnation as a human being who experienced childhood. We chose this particular cover because this icon may also remind us that we must not despise young people, since they are capable of wise teachings; and, because we have several articles about our youth in this issue of "SOLIA." ❀

# BISHOP NATHANIEL: AROY BANQUET ADDRESS:

## "With God, All Things Are Possible"

*\*His Grace, Bishop Nathaniel represented the Episcopate at the Biennial Union & League Banquet, in Cleveland, Sunday, September 5, and left this message to be read. At the request of a number of those who heard it, SOLIA reprints the Address.*

### Christ is Among Us!

We have stolen a few days from school to come together as young people of our Church in order to reaffirm who we are; and then, we will return to our routines of school, home, work and our parishes.

We know that we must be responsible young people, and we have taken a mature decision. We have decided that we will move the AROY Conference from these "stolen days" at the beginning of the school term to our "free" days in summer after the Vatra Camps. Next year the Conference will be on the weekend of August 21. Now no one needs to feel guilty about skipping school to attend an AROY Conference!

Last night, many of us became "A Star Tonight!" Imagine! In a few minutes, people actually applauded us and wanted our autographs! **Stardom** and recogni-

tion may come "in a single tonight," but there were "years of nights" in preparation which passed by before last night, and "years of effort" in remaining at stardom in the future.

Recently, I read that Garth Brooks, the new Country Singer Star, wondered **how** he had become a star. After a short time, he was already exhausted from the demands made on him by his fans, his agents, his recording company and all of those who "grab-hold" of a rising star. He felt that he was no longer himself and wanted "O U T." Garth was looking for some precious moments with his own family.

While we all want to be and need to be appreciated, recognized and loved for who we are and for what we do with our God-given talents, we need to remember that there are years of preparation before and years of efforts thereafter to maintain our "star-quality!"

Stardom for most of us can be said to be the "age of maturity," when we can responsibly do things and live as self-supporting individuals.

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# SOLIA

THE  
HERALD

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# AROY BANQUET

*Continued from page 2*

In the beginning, pre-stardom, pre-maturity stage, we depended on family, teachers and friends, who hopefully influenced us to do good. When we have come to act maturely, we no longer depend on others in the same way as before; we become responsible for ourselves and to others. We must answer for our own decisions.

We do not and cannot live in isolation from others. We need them, and they need us in order for us to continue our "star-quality" existence, that is, to continue our good works, words and qualities. They recognize them in us and help us to continue to polish them and use the good sense, mental gifts, physical beauty and free will with which we have been blessed by God.

As the stars of stage and sound, we, too, have an audience which continues to like us or which we may alienate, and which drops us from its "charts." We can be good people, loving and concerned Christians, or we can become self-centered, unkind burdens on society which will "write us off."

As at our Karaoke sing-along last night, we have a variety of songs and words from which to choose. We need not only to choose the best of what we know, but must also learn and know more and make ourselves better if we want to be and remain a "star" in everyone's book, and first of all in God's.

The songs that are written by professional songwriters and lead-singers come from their own concerns and observations, from their personal problems or those they see. Our songs, that is, our **choice** of words and actions, come from the best song-writer, script editor, from God himself. He reminds us of love, not just of an "up and down" human emotion that causes "achey-breakey hearts," but of his own love which mends broken hearts and helps us heal wounds and doubts and anxieties. His is a steadfast love which is always waiting in the "wings of the stage of life." **"With God, all things are possible."**

Young people, at maturity . . . stardom . . . frequently become aware and disappointed that adults, "grown-ups," "them," have faults and are often poor examples. They may physically and emotionally hurt us and cause our own personal "achey-breakey hearts." Sometimes, we label them "hypocrites."

Older "stars," ones who have been in the business of life for a while, would not be too quick to write off another. They have gone through more days in the public light and know what it is to be under the pressure of family, work, and society. They have experienced having made some "bad" selections which might have taken them down on the chart of esteem.

As young people, it is good to keep your eyes looking up to Christ, **THE STAR**, and to avoid following

poor examples of too much drink, gossiping, sleeping-around, unkindnesses . . . you fill in the blanks. Everyone needs to be a star for him or her self, because God creates us to be stars for him and for others, for parents, sisters and brothers, teachers, friends, family.

A "star," being a mature person, comes through good relationships; and, AROY's prime time relationship is in the Church and as AROY. If there are good things in your chapter, make them shine even more brightly! If there are dim and dull ones, make an effort to polish them up! **"With God, all things are possible!"**

God gives us a wonderful gift called, "memory." You have memories and constantly input more into the recesses of your personal computer, your heart. This AROY Conference will mean something both the same and different to each of us. We will all carry memories of this weekend in our hearts. We were at the same meetings, ate the same meals, prayed together at the same services, were at the same social events. Whether we responded as "stars" and mature people or as "falling stars" and "geeks" were choices we made. Were we responsible and mature or are we taking our first steps on the road to "hypocrisy!"? **With God, all things are possible.**

Let's support one another's search for Christian "stardom," which is living a good life both here and now and crossing over onto the "stage of eternal life" to come. Let's show to our family, our friends, our parishes that we are not only "stuff for stars," but are already "star-quality!" We are AROY! We are mature and responsible young Christians.

May Christ the true light of the world shine in us and through our AROY lives! ✠

†Bishop Nathaniel

## A LETTER FROM ALBANIA

**To His Grace, Bishop NATHANIEL:**

*In Behalf of the Arumun Community of the City of Korchia, we thank you from the bottom of our heart for your engagement in all seriousness for the building of the Arumun church in our city in which most Arumun people live.*

*We will always be grateful for such a great humane act for your response to help our people to be back again in the possibility to freely worship God.*

*We lived in heavy terror and bad conditions, and although religious belief can disappear from the human spirit because of this, it was nevertheless transmitted to the young people, to our children.*

*To fulfill this is the biggest desire of our people today.  
God be with you.*

**From the Arumun Community of Korchia  
Secretary, Karmen Spau  
Chairman, Stavri Stefa  
Korchia, July 8, 1992**



# POEMS FROM COMMUNIST PRISONS

**T**his is not a 'book review' but an introduction, an offering to our readers of selected works from **Poems From Communist Prisons**, translated from the Romanian book of the same name.

There are a limited number of twenty-nine poems presented in this slim volume which were translated by the Very Rev. Mother Alexandra of thrice-blessed memory, first Abbess of the Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Ellwood City, Pennsylvania.

These twenty-nine are but a fraction of the thousands of literary works which are coming to light from the dark bowels of the Communist political prisons in Romania. Without doubt, there exist unpublished millions of works of testimony from other peoples and nations which were enslaved, and who likewise suffered/suffer unspeakably under diabolic atheistic Communism.

A fuller and richer volume of poems published in Romanian as **POEZII DIN INCHISORI**, collected by Mr. Zahu Pana and published by the Canadian newspaper, "Cuvantul Romanesc/The Romanian Voice" in 1982, is the source of the English book. Can we hope that the rest will also be translated for the wide English-speaking public?

Indeed, how does one dare "publish" the suffering of souls? Can the depths of human endurance be "measured," "weighed," "appreciated," or "judged?" Only God, who created the heart of man and knows the depths of his soul, knows what his servants have "suffered for the sake of righteousness!" We can only weep and recoil, mediate and admire.

The purpose of the book and the reason for which we are publishing these poems is to share the bounties of the spiritual fruit which these elect of the Lord carefully planted, nurtured, protected, and pruned in the inner garden of their heart, while yet constrained within the sterile "killing fields" of Communist prisons.

Furthermore, it is not possible for us to ignore nor attempt to whitewash the decades of vicious and inhumane treatment perpetrated against the victims of Communism just because it seems that changes are in the wind. We must not only gain from their words but must also make their words be respected. Not only do the relics of these individuals cry out to heaven for recognition, but the prison stones themselves would shout out in rage should the blood poured forth and splattered on them, staining them forever, not be acknowledged, however humbly so in these few printed works.

One must read Mother Alexandra's Foreword which in itself is like a personal echo, her own poem and confession of sympathy, of understanding, and which is

a type of spiritual participation, "common union," in you will, with the suffering of the authors of **Poems From Communist Prisons**.

"This is true poetry of the soul," she states, "that expresses various emotions of those unjustly imprisoned by the Communist Party, for the crime of independent thought. These poems should not be read too quickly for their meaning may be difficult at first sight to comprehend. There is much symbolism in them, and however bitter in parts, they are full of Christian fortitude and forgiveness."

It is our intention to publish these poems as a kind of "remembrance" or "pomelnic" to the authors, individuals who have scratched into the hard walls of their life the graffiti of their innermost feelings, and which cannot be ignored nor made light of. Without pen and paper, they committed to memory and later shared their soul's monologues with their prison mates. By God's will, they have been delivered to us like some special "St. Valentine's" greeting of old.

Each issue of "**SOLIA**" will carry at least one poem, one testament, and we pray that "the suffering which is so real will also explain the final strength to forgive." It is this Christian virtue which is the basis for the unique and light-filled out-pouring of these illumined souls, a virtue without which the world cannot change and which itself is the touchstone of the true message and person of Jesus Christ. It is a virtue sorely absent from our own Western Capitalist/Consumer/Agnostic Society.

It is not our intention to stir animosity against those particular individuals who were in authority at the time; there are others who will be charged with meting out justice and other ways that will be employed.

We have been asked: "Did the corporate body of the Romanian people know of these languishing souls and could they not, by some action, have changed the course of that imprisonment and that of their own national history? Without a doubt the suffering of the prisoners was known at least in part, so to what extent is a moot point.

We are reminded of the time, just months ago, when people asked why something had not been done about the orphans. Did not the people know? Could they not have done something? We ourselves, pass our prisons and our own public and private institutions, and can we say that we know what is really going on inside? If there is a universal responsibility of the entire nation, is this not a question that must be asked by those there and not by us here? On the other hand, if such a question can be posed there, it can also be formulated for us.

*Continued on page 1*



We in the free world have been blessed to now come to meet these individuals through their poetry. Once locked behind impenetrable walls, unjustly imprisoned, they have become part of the action of purification and renewal resulting from their sufferings and through their intercessions in behalf of their fellow citizens. They became, in fact, some kind of collective conscience of the nation.

Certainly, it is not necessary for us to know that others are praying for us in order for us to benefit from their love. God's plans work unhindered by thick walls, violent beatings and extreme deprivations; and, he selects his servants as he will. So, too, the Romanian people need not have known the intensity of the poets' suffering for them as a nation to have reaped the benefits of their witness to God.

Nations, groups, individuals are all part of the fabric of our earthly life, and hidden between the visible warp and the weft are invisible threads of the grace, the light and love of God. We may notice only one side of the cloth, but the other side is there and bears the perfect pattern and is the "right side up," revealing God's hand in human history, making it sacred history.

We have selected for the first poem, "**Jesus In The Night**," by **Radu Gyr**. It is in the night that one's mind, body and heart come to rest in the hours after heavy labor; and yet, it is in those moments that our soul so often "as a deer thirsting for water seeks the living God." Sit with Radu on his bed and behold the tall, sad Savior who has come to give balm to his heavy heart.

Our thanks to the Very Rev. Mother Christophora, Abbess of the Holy Transfiguration Monastery, for permission to publish this series of poems.

May these **Poems From Communist Prisons** move those of us who did not live through such times and bring us to contrition, to thanksgiving and to personal and collective renewal as Children of God and as our brother's keeper. ✠

NATHANIEL, Bishop

## JESUS IN THE NIGHT

by Radu Gyr

This night Jesus entered my cell.  
O how sad, how tall was Christ!  
The moon followed Him into my cell  
And made Him taller, sadder still.

He sat by me upon my mat;  
"Put your hand upon my wounds."  
On His ankle there were scars from sores and rust  
As if He too had worn chains once . . .

His hands were like lilies upon a grave,  
His eyes as deep as forests;  
His garments whitened by the moon,  
Silvering in His hands old wounds.

Sighing, He stretched His weary bones  
Upon my lousy mat;  
In His sleep He shone forth, but the heavy bars  
Lengthened upon Him like rods.

I rose from beneath my gray blanket.  
"Lord, from whence come you? Out of which  
eternity?"  
Jesus put His finger to His lips  
And signed me to be still.

My cell seemed like a mountain peak;  
Rats and roaches swarmed around;  
I felt my head fall heavy upon my hand  
And I slept, a thousand years . . .

When I awoke from my heavy trance  
The straw smelled of roses;  
I was in my cell and there was moonlight  
But Jesus was nowhere.

"Where are you, Lord?" I cried between the bars.  
Across the moon came drifts of mist . . .  
I touched myself, and found upon my palms  
The sign of His nails.

## The Holy Cross in Romania

The largest relic of the Holy Cross of our Lord has been preserved on Mount Athos, and it is being taken to Romania so that the faithful can have the possibility to venerate it.

This particular relic is approximately 30 cm or 12 inches long and bears the mark of one of the nails which was through the Lord's hand.

One of the reasons for which the guardians of the relic have decided to take it to Romania is that it should be a source of spiritual strength and power to Ortho-

dox Christians who are being beleaguered by Protestant sectarians, foreign cults and the lethargy of Communist Atheism.

Greek Orthodox Christians are also printing books in Romanian, sending icons and other spiritual nourishment to be distributed free to their fellow Orthodox in Romania.

Taken from: **Orthodox Kipsely**, Thessalonica, Greece. ✠



# 43RD ANNUAL AROY CONFERENCE

Approximately 60 delegates gathered at Presentation of Our Lord Church in Akron, Ohio, on the Labor Day weekend, September 4-6, for the 1992 AROY Conference. Notably, local chapters from Warren, Ohio, and Indianapolis, Indiana, sent delegates, thereby reactivating. They were received by acclamation and applause by the assembled delegates.

After opening the Conference with the "Service Before Beginning any Good Work," Rev. Fr. George Treff, AROY Spiritual Advisor, presented the keynote address on the theme: "With God, all things are possible." Committee reports followed.

Before breaking for lunch, Rev. Fr. John Zdinak, of St. Innocent Church, Westlake, Ohio, and a representative of the Department of Youth and Campus Ministry of the Orthodox Church in America, led a workshop on "Repentance and Change." Using modern music and group participation, Fr. John gave the delegates the opportunity to express how their values have changed since the time they were children of 5 years old. He displayed how change, through repentance, is necessary as we grow into adulthood. Fr. John completed the workshop during the Saturday portion of the meetings.

The assembled delegates wholeheartedly expressed their support to the Regina delegates as they prepare to host the 1993 AROY Conference. Regina and the surrounding parishes have pledged their commitment to make the Conference there memorable and enjoyable. Local chapters and AROY supporters are reminded from now to begin fundraising so that full chapter delegations can be sent there the weekend of August 20-22, 1993. Due to the early start of school, the Conference body agreed to hold this Conference and coming Conferences during the weekend following the Vatra Sr. Camp.

During the report on finances, Bishop Nathaniel duly noted and commended AROY for the fact that the majority of the AROY budget goes to charitable activities: Project HOPE, Camp Vatra, Missions, Scholarship Funds, the Solia Newspaper, Camp Ft. Qu'Appelle, etc.

The 1992 Chapter Achievement Award, based on local chapters' fulfillment of 13 categories, was awarded to AKROY and Cathedral Senior AROY. The winners of the 2nd Annual Writing Extravaganza are as follows: 1st place: Regina AROY; 2nd place: Cathedral Senior AROY; 3rd place: AKROY. (A separate article on this event appears elsewhere in this issue of SOLIA). Furthermore, the recipients of the AROY / Stanitz Scholarship were announced: Mihai Rauta, Washington, D.C. and Lydia Sankey, Hermitage, Pennsylvania.



His Grace, Bishop Nathaniel, with the 1992-93 AROY Executive Board.

This Conference was also significant in that it was a Legislative Conference in which proposed changes to the AROY By-Laws were debated. The following changes were ratified by the delegates, and await ratification by the 1993 Church Congress: 1) Two people who are husband and wife, brother and sister, or parent and child, may serve on the AROY Executive Board at the same time, but they are not both eligible for election to the offices of President, Vice President and Treasurer. 2) In the event of a vacancy in an Executive Board office which requires that such officer be at least 21 years of age, the Board may elect someone who was a seated member of the prior year's Conference, and who is at least 21 years of age. 3) In cases of emergency, the Executive Board may make decisions by telefax as an alternative to first class mail. 4) Local chapter officers may hold the same office for more than two years in a row. The chapter has to notify the AROY Executive Board and receive the Board's authorization before the officer in question can take the oath of office for the third or later year in office.

The delegates elected a new slate of officers: President: Emily Lipovan (Cleveland), Vice-President: David Poroeh (Dearborn Heights), Secretary: Nick Gibb (Youngstown), Treasurer: Stephanie Zablocki (Akron), Auditors: Eric Luca (Cleveland), and Corina Ardelean (Chicago), and Members-At-Large: Matt Wright (Akron), Donna Freudig (Philadelphia), Mircea Tipescu (Chicago). President David Maxim expressed his thanks to the outgoing Board.

The AKROY Chapter, supported by the faithful of Presentation of Our Lord, planned and executed a fantastic Conference! The meals and evening events were especially memorable. Will anyone ever forget Karaoke night?

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# QUAMP QU'APPELLE 1992



Students and Staff — 1992

**T**his year's Qu'amp was a success in every sense of the term! All the participants enjoyed themselves, the staff was enthusiastic, the food was good, and the mosquitoes behaved themselves.

First of all, a personal message of thanks to A.R.O.Y. National (International?) and the Canadian Brotherhood for their financial support, and the members of the Orthodox Christian Centre for the facilities, without which the camp would not be possible. Also thanks to Mrs. Flunder, Mrs. Paraniuk, and Mrs. Dumba, for their untiring help in the kitchen. An especially big thanks to the parishioners from St. Nicholas, Regina; Holy Trinity, McNutt; St. George, Dysart; and St. Mary's, Calgary; for donating time and munchies and good will. It is by this show of support that our children learn that through unity there is strength. Oh yes, . . . thank you to Sts. Peter and Paul/Descent of the Holy Spirit, Assiniboia/Flintoft, for the loan of Father Marioncu, whose smiling, friendliness made camp more fun!

This year the counselors and teachers were as enthusiastic as the kids. The first year participants were Michael and Jaimie Enachescu from Calgary. Michael taught "philosophy of life," or the proper and Orthodox way of dealing with situations that teens, and all of us, find ourselves in every day.

Jaimie showed us how our hands can reflect what is in our hearts. Through material things like paper, homemade clay, paints and colors, the campers showed not only imagination, but even at times, inner feelings.

Connie Constantinescu, another Calgarian, held discussions dealing with "Everything you wanted to know about the Bible, but were afraid to ask." In spite of the lofty title, very specific areas of the Bible were explored. This topic, as well, showed how the ancient writ-



Quamp Qu'Appelle Olympics

ings of the Bible relate to our everyday lives.

From our veterans of "previous campaigns," we had Preoteasa Lillian Lupu and Father Martinian. Psa. Lillian showed how the church symbols we see and use on a regular basis have their origin in Scripture and the Early Church. In this way, we realize how Orthodox worship developed from, and is still very much a part of our daily lives. Last, but not least, Father Martinian related to us the usefulness and necessity of knowing how the Church, in all her splendor, is based on Christ Himself, was started at the Descent of the Holy Spirit, and shows us how we must live our lives to truly be part of Christ and his plan of salvation.

Learning wasn't all we did at Qu'amp Qu'appelle. In addition to classes and chores, our days started and ended with chapel. In between, we went to Regina twice, once to see the Science Center (where we had a picnic in the park) and enjoyed visiting the R.C.M.P. Museum. The second time, we were hosted by Father C. Turcoane and the parishioners of St. Nicholas Church for Divine Liturgy, and Lunch (they sure fed us well at St. Nick's, both physically and spiritually). Thanks to all the parishioners who were so generous, not only with their food and facilities, but also with their love and spiritual caring. Back at the Qu'amp, during the rest of the time, we all participated in The Qu'amp, Qu'appelle Olympics, bonfires, swimming, hiking, dances, and fireworks displays from the hill-top (thanks to Chad and Jason). The "finale" of the Camp was the Talent Nite. This year's talent and ingenuity of staff and campers will never be forgotten. The challenge has been made, the gauntlet has been thrown down, it is

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# ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

## 10TH ALL AMERICA COUNCIL

(Miami): The 10th All America Council of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) adjourned on July 31 after one full week of deliberations. Nearly 1,000 clergy and lay delegates, observers and their families, as well as retail salespeople gathered in Florida for this triennial council.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan THEODOSIUS, officially opened the Council on July 26. Besides the Metropolitan, 13 hierarchs were present at the Council, including His Grace DMITRI, Bishop of Dallas, the local host for the assembly. In addition to all of the OCA diocesan bishops (including His Grace, Bishop NATHANIEL), His Grace, Bishop PHILIP of Atlanta attended as the representative of the Greek Archdiocese and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He delivered a welcoming address and a congratulatory message from His Holiness, Patriarch BARTHOLOMEW of Constantinople, on the occasion of Metropolitan THEODOSIUS' 25th anniversary of episcopal consecration. Other notable guest hierarchs included Bishop ANTOUN of the Antiochian Archdiocese, Bishop PAUL of the Russian Orthodox Church, and Archbishop VICTORIN of the Romanian Archdiocese.

The week-long convocation focused on several issues affecting Church life. 1) Delegates approved a program in which OCA departments will develop materials to enable parishes to work in areas such as stewardship, mission, medical ethics, AIDS, substance abuse, homelessness and race relations. 2) After extended debate concerning the need to support the role of women in the Church, the Council resolved that Metropolitan THEODOSIUS will organize a meeting of women from all dioceses to evaluate, define and discuss the possibility of forming a womens' organization, with corresponding sister chapters at the diocesan and parish levels. 3) Also passed was a resolution addressing the history and current situation in former communist lands. The resolution provides that the OCA support efforts to maintain and strengthen Orthodox unity in these parts of the world, to support their integrity, and develop ecumenical initiatives in defense of Orthodoxy in these regions. It also called for the OCA to stand in solidarity against nationalist, ideological, and religious groups attempting to take advantage of the vulnerability and chaos in these areas, thus weakening the proclamation of the Gospel, and the positive, unifying witness of Orthodox Churches in the region.

Goals for the next triennium include the development of a proportionate giving program, combined with the institution of a program of stewardship education.

Resolutions proposed to the Council and passed by the delegates dealt with stewardship education. Resolutions proposed to the Council and passed by the delegates dealt with stewardship education, with an emphasis on first-portion giving, an increase in per capita assessments, and the equal participation of all dioceses in supporting the Church administration. Also approved were resolutions encouraging parish membership in the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards (FOS), the use of the national Church office as the direct repository for Church-wide appeals, and uniform accounting procedures to be used throughout the Church.

Finally, a document on morality issues, compiled by the Synod of Bishops of the OCA, was received by the Council with great enthusiasm.

From "Orthodox Church in America News," August 31, 1992 ☸

## CAMP QU'APPELLE

*Continued from page 7*

up to next year's family of Quampers to show if they are made of "The Right Stuff."

Just two closing remarks: 1) This year's camp was as in previous years, successful, because people who care for the future of Orthodoxy participate in the education of our children. People like Father Martinian who never waited to be asked. People like the cooks and teachers, who sacrifice their holidays, so the children can have 10 days of safe fun within the framework of Orthodoxy. Orthodoxy is the Tradition we follow so we can live a better life and teach our children to have a better life. It's not taught in the school, or by the government, or by anyone else. Only we, as bearers of the flame of Orthodoxy, can teach our children what is important and everlasting; and, only through the Camps, both in Fort Qu'appelle, Sask. and at the Vatra, Michigan, can our children share with others of the same Tradition, the important strengths of Faith, and Love, and Orthodox brotherhood.

2) Also in this year's camp, Father Martinian stated that in all his life as priest and director of camps this was the first time he heard the campers request to go to bed early! Having fun can definitely get you tired!

And so closes this year's chapter on Qu'amp Qu'appelle. Next year, the dates are: **July 6 to 16, 1993**. Keep on the look-out for details as the time grows closer! ☸

Rev. Fr. Michael Lupu



# TRANSFIGURATION MONASTERY PILGRIMAGE

The Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, celebrated its 25th anniversary on August 5 and 6 in conjunction with its patronal feast day. The monastery, founded in 1967, by the late Mother Alexandra, with the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Valerian, of thrice-blessed memory, and the support of the Episcopate faithful, welcomed hundreds of pilgrims for this special event.

The anniversary celebration opened with a Vigil service in the monastery chapel on Wednesday evening, August 5. Main celebrant at the Vigil and all the services those two days, was His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. He was assisted by Hieromonk Joseph, monastery chaplain. Present also for the Vigil and the services the following day were: His Grace, Bishop Nathaniel, Romanian Episcopate; His Grace, Bishop Kyrill, Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western, PA; and His Grace, Bishop Herman, Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern PA. Prior to the service, the hierarchs were greeted by the monastery abbess, Mother Christophora, and the sisterhood with the festal icon and bread and salt — an expression of hospitality. After the Vigil, everyone was invited to the newly-constructed monastery refectory for refreshments.

Two additional hierarchs blessed the monastery by their presence at the festivities on August 6 — His Grace, Bishop Maximos of the Greek Diocese of Pittsburgh and His Grace, Bishop Nicholas of the Carpatho-Russian Diocese of America. A procession of the six hierarchs, 15 priests, 3 deacons at 9:30 a.m. was led by the monastery sisterhood and visiting monastics.

The Holy Liturgy was attended by hundreds of pilgrims, many of whom came forward to receive the Precious Mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood. The homily was delivered by His Beatitude. Following the Liturgy, all enjoyed the hospitality of the sisterhood.

At 2:00 p.m. a blessing of the newly-constructed monastery additions was celebrated by the visiting hierarchs. The building project includes 9,000 square feet of construction and has provided 16 cells for the sisterhood, a large refectory seating up to one hundred people, a large kitchen, prosphora bakery and a two-car garage. This first phase of building additions took 10 months to complete. A second phase, begun just a few weeks before the pilgrimage, will include an addition to the monastery chapel, a baptistery, a conference room and a chapel entrance from the parking lot.

The Sacrament of Holy Unction was served immediately following the blessing. Hundreds of pilgrims were



**Blessing of fruit by Metropolitan Theodosius.**

annointed with the healing oil during the service and then left for their homes spiritually uplifted and refreshed.

The monastery sisterhood is grateful to all who attended and was especially touched by the presence of representatives from four other monastic communities including: V. Rev. Mother Gabriella, Abbess of Holy Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction, MI; V. Rev. Mother Taxiarchia, Abbess of Nativity of the Theotokos Convent, Saxonburg, PA; V. Rev. Mother Ana, Abbess of Monastery Marcha, Richfield, OH; and Father Michael, St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, Hayesville, OH.

The special events of the anniversary year will conclude with a monastic convocation on October 5, 6, and 7 when monastics from the U.S., Canada, and France will gather at Transfiguration Monastery for prayer, discussion and fellowship. ✙

## HIERARCHAL SCHEDULE

**August 18, Tuesday. Detroit, MI. St. Paul's Retreat Center.** Keynote address to the Eastern Orthodox Catechetical Association.

**August 21-24. Friday-Monday. Regina, SK. Ft. Qu'Appelle. Friday:** Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Orthodox Christian Centre, the General Assembly of the O.C.C., Canada Deanery meeting. Reception. **Saturday:** Camp Reunion and festivities. Great Vespers. **Sunday:** Divine Liturgy, Memorial Service, Dedication of St. Martinian Hall, festive banquet.

**August 29, Saturday. Cleveland, OH. St. Mary. ARFORA Board Meeting.**

**August 30, Sunday. Rives Junction, MI. Dormition Monastery.** Divine Liturgy. ✙



# WORLD CHURCH NEWS

## **"Children of Orthodoxy"**

The Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology and Religion (OCAMPR) will hold its seventh annual conference at the Doubletree Hotel, Orange County, California, on Saturday, October 31. The theme, "Children of Orthodoxy", will deal with the ardent issue of bringing up Orthodox children in an environment which is not the most conducive to Faith. According to the "Hellenic Chronicle," "the conference will take an interdisciplinary look at domestic problems and solutions for Orthodox families, while offering specific guidance on a range of family issues for parents, clergy, doctors, psychologists and professionals in social work."

## **Renaissance Icon Damaged**

The largest painting sheltered by the Louvre Museum belonging to the Italian Renaissance period, the "Wedding of Cana" by Paolo Veronese, was recently torn apart in a fatal fall. The 16th century "chef d'oeuvre" was created over the course of many years and contains 120 figures. The special technique applied on its texture made it weigh 1½ tons. Napoleon Bonaparte removed it from the walls of San Giorgio Maggiore Church and brought only the canvas to Paris. During both World Wars, special efforts were made to hide it from the craving eyes of the occupants. Later, the visitors could admire it next to the portrait of the familiar "Mona Lisa." Fortunately, the five cuts suffered while falling from the scaffolds, did not affect any of the figures, thus making restoration easier.

## **Christian-Jewish Relations**

Pittsburgh, PA. — Forty-eight workshops on a variety of topics will be offered at the 13th National Workshop on Christian-Jewish Relations, to take place November 8-11 in Pittsburgh. The keynote presentation will deal with "Ethnicity, Nationalism and Religion." Eight workshops will involve Orthodox speakers, among whom is His Grace Bishop Maximos, Fr. Nicholas Pissare, Fr. John Chakos, Fr. Theodore Pulcini. One of the five plenary sessions will feature Metropolitan Vassileios of Caesaria of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem ("Illuminator," July-August 1992).

## **More on Albania**

On July 31, Metropolitan Anastasios (Yanoulatos) was installed as the new Primate of Tirana and All Albania. The distinguished scholar, ecumenist and missionary has been challenged to reorganize the Church of Albania. As some news agencies reported, the ceremony was disturbed by "Muslims who opposed the

presence of 'foreigners' as religious heads of an Albanian Church." Muslims represent 70 percent of the total population of that country, while 25 percent of the population is Orthodox and 5 percent Roman Catholic. The other three archimandrites elected by the Patriarchate to assist Archbishop Anastasios could not be consecrated due to "reasons of a socio-political nature" ("Illuminator"). Intense efforts are being made by the entire Greek Orthodox Church to finance this extraordinary mission of reviving the Albanian Church.

## **Patriarch of Serbia to Visit U.S.A.**

His Holiness Patriarch PAVLE of Serbia is expected to visit the Eastern Serbian U.S. Diocese during the month of October. On October 27, the Feast of St. Parascheva (Old Calendar), the Patriarch is scheduled to celebrate the Liturgy at one of the Serbian parishes in Cleveland, Ohio.

## **English Translation on Romanian Hesychasm**

The book of Bishop Serafim Joanta, vicar of the Archdiocese of Sibiu, "Hesychasm in the Romanian Culture and Tradition," was recently published in English translation by Christ of the Hills Monastery, Blanco, Texas, 78606-1049. Hesychasm is an ascetic practice of quieting the soul and body for the purpose of attaining the Uncreated Light that surrounded the Lord on Mount Tabor at his Transfiguration. The book was first published in French and is now in its first English edition.

## **Ecumenical Workshop in Phanar**

On August 28, Greek-Orthodox metropolitan worldwide met in a second workshop on Unity in Phanar, Turkey. The first similar seminar was held in 1988 in the context of the ruling bishops of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. According to the "Illuminator", His Grace Bishop Maximos has been invited to participate as the chairperson of the theological consultations between Orthodox and Roman Catholics and Orthodox and Lutherans in the U.S. In a statement released by His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, the workshop was meant to "discuss the administration of our churches and seek solutions to our problems" ("Hellenic Chronicle," Sept. 3.) The meeting was presided by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomaios.

## **Syndesmos**

American delegates to the SYNDESMOS ANNUAL MEETING in Moscow, Russia, between June 8 pledged \$50,000 to this international Orthodox youth

*Continued on page 1*



# Youth In Action!

## 1992 AROY WRITING EXTRAVAGANZA RESULTS

**T**he Writing Extravaganza held during the 43rd Annual AROY Conference at Presentation of Our Lord Church, Akron, Ohio, produced three well written and inspiring documents. Three local chapters participated in the event: Regina AROY, Cathedral Senior AROY, and AKROY.

Each chapter had a representative(s) read their entry to the assembled delegates on the Friday afternoon of the first day of the Conference. Noticeably, the delegates were quiet and attentive during this event.

The topic was: *Imagine that you are a non-Orthodox Christian who has studied the teachings, faith and practice of the Orthodox Church. You have decided to become an Orthodox Christian for many reasons, including 3 of the following: 1) Teaching about who God is 2) The practice of baptizing infants 3) The opportunity to take part in the sacrament of repentance 4) The Church's understanding of marriage 5) The teachings about Holy Scripture and Holy Tradition 6) The teachings about the saints and the spiritual life 7) What it means in every day life to live as a Christian. Choose 3 of the 7 listed reasons and explain your reasons.*

Beginning with this issue of SOLIA, we will reproduce each entry in the order in which they were rated by the judges. Regina AROY submitted the following entry and placed first.

I'm a new Orthodox Christian. It does not matter what religious denomination I was a part of before. What does matter is that I now belong to the Orthodox Faith — the one true Faith that has never changed. I was encouraged to come and see what Orthodoxy was all about, and believe me, I was skeptical. Although, at first, I must admit that the service seemed different and even strange in some respects, I soon found myself asking questions and seeking answers about Orthodoxy. The answers to those questions convinced me that Orthodoxy was something special. Now, here I am, an Orthodox Christian, after long hours of studying the teachings, faith, and practice of the Orthodox Church.

There are so many reasons that convinced me to become an Orthodox Christian, but I have chosen three very special ones to tell you about . . .

### **The Sacrament of Marriage in the Orthodox Church**

Marriage is a big step in the lives of many people. It is the time when a man and a woman make the decision to commit their lives to each other; and, they pledge their love and honor for each other in the presence of their family and friends. For Orthodox Christians, the husband and wife not only commit their lives

to each other, but also to God. Thus, at an Orthodox wedding, the couple's vows are spoken not only with the priest and the couple's family and friends as witnesses, but more importantly with God as their witness.

We have all watched television and movie marriages between two stage characters, and many of us have been to weddings of various religious denominations. In many ways, all of these weddings are similar, but I don't think that you would ever see an Orthodox wedding on a television show or in a movie; because, if you have ever been to an Orthodox wedding in real life, you would probably understand why. An Orthodox marriage ceremony is not typical, and that is because there is no other marriage ceremony with as much meaning and relation to the Holy Scriptures.

The Orthodox wedding service is filled with religious symbolism. For instance, you will notice that the bride and the groom will hold candles throughout the entire service. That is because it is meant to symbolize the lamps of the five wise maidens who received Christ when He came in the darkness of the night. This stands for the couple's willingness to receive Christ in their united life so that He will bless them through his sacrament. As well as holding candles throughout the entire service, the couple also holds each other's right hand to symbolize the togetherness and unity of the couple. Another very important part of the service is the crowning of the bride and the groom, symbolizing that they have become the king and queen of their own personal kingdoms, and that they must honor and care for each other always.

The service is very religious. The Gospel reading at each wedding is John 2:1-11, which is the wedding at Cana of Galilee. Here Christ performed his first miracle by turning water into wine. After the Gospel is read, the couple drinks wine out of a "common cup" to show the couple's and Christ's mutual sharing of the joys and sorrows they will encounter in their life together. It is believed that their joys will be doubled and their sorrows will be cut in half. Finally, the bride and groom take their first steps as a married couple around the table in front of the altar. During this walk, the hymn of the holy martyrs is sung to remind the couple of the sacrifices they will have to make for each other in their marriage, just as Christ sacrificed himself for us.

I believe the Orthodox sacrament of marriage is one of the most beautiful services you can see, or hopefully experience for yourself. It is long, and it is demanding, but it is the most important and serious commit-

*Continued on page 14*



## CONFERENCE *Cont. from page 6*

Bishop Nathaniel celebrated the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, assisted by a sobor of clergy, including host priest, Rev. Ian Pac-Urar. The AROY choir, under the able direction of Ms. Valerie Yova, helped beautify the service through their wonderful singing. The well-attended banquet following the Liturgy featured Bishop Nathaniel's address (see elsewhere in this issue of SOLIA) and the presentation of

## 25th ANNUAL ORTHODOX BROTHERHOOD CONFERENCE

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1992

7:00 - 10:30 Hospitality Room at The Holiday Inn, Southfield

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1992

8:30 - 10:00 Continental Breakfast at St. George Cathedral

10:00 - 12:30 Business meeting in session

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 - 3:00 Business meeting reconvenes

3:30 - 4:00 Parastas for deceased Brotherhood members

4:00 Great Vespers

7:00 - 7:30 Social hour — St. George Cathedral

7:30 - 8:30 Dinner — St. George Cathedral (by reservations)

8:30 - 11:30 Dance to the music of Joe Tricoff

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1992

Join St. George Cathedral to celebrate their 80th anniversary.

### CONFERENCE DINNER RESERVATION

I will be attending the 25th Annual Orthodox Brotherhood Conference Dinner, on October 17, 1992. I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats for the dinner, at a cost of \$25.00 per person. **Deadline** for dinner reservations is **October 7, 1992**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail reservation to:** Orthodox Brotherhood  
18405 W. Nine Mile Rd.,  
Southfield, MI. 48075

**Holiday Inn of Southfield** has been booked for the Conference.

Address: 26555 Telegraph Road  
Southfield, Michigan

Telephone: (313) 353-7700

Hotel reservations are required by **October 2, 1992**. Mention **ORTHODOX BROTHERHOOD** for group rates.

awards: AROY / Stanitz Scholarships, Writing Extravaganza, Chapter Achievement, and Immediated Past President: Gary Danis. Worthy of note is the beautiful plaque and bouquet of roses presented by David Maxim on behalf of the Episcopate and AROY to Ps. Mary Ellen Rosco for her 25 years of service to the Vatra Camps.

The Cotillion Ball on Sunday night was a memorable event for the 11 debutantes. Congratulations to: Gabriela Catana (Cleveland), Mandy Januska (Cleveland), Erin Kennedy (Youngstown), Claudia Moldovan (Akron), Christian Moldovan (Cleveland), Emma Pop (Chicago), Rachel Rogozan (Southfield), Alexis Sandru (Canton), Elizabeth Scavnicky (Southfield), Christine Schweitzer (Canton), and Melissa Wright (Akron)!

Goodbye, Akron, goodbye. Hello, Regina, hello! ✠

## WORLD NEWS *Continued from page 10*

organization. Among the OCA representatives were: Bishop Job of Hartford, Fr. John Matusiak of the Youth Department and the late Fr. John Meyendorff, SYNDESMOS founder and its first secretary-general. The newly-elected president is Heikki Huttunen, and the U.S. Regional Delegate for America is Michael Kallaur, a student at St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary. The youth representatives were interested in promoting education, leadership training, communications, and missions as their priority programs. ("Illuminator," No. 93/1992).

## Orthodoxy in Czechoslovakia Suffers

According to the report of the Czechoslovak delegation at the SYNDESMOS annual meeting in Moscow, the 50,000 Orthodox faithful in their country are under great legal pressure to return "nearly every Orthodox property" to the Eastern Rite Catholic Church. The morale of the youth and adults can be maintained, says Jan Kupec of the Czechoslovak Orthodox Youth Fellowship, by "contacts with Orthodox youth from the West" ("Syndesmos News," July 1992).

## A New Forum for Orthodox Opinion

A new Orthodox newsletter, "American Orthodoxy," is published quarterly at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, a Washington-based research institution. Edited by Fr. Alexander F.C. Webster, a priest in the Romanian Episcopate, this attractive publication features opinion-editorial articles on contemporary social and moral issues by some of the best Orthodox writers, such as Fr. Stanley Harakas, Fr. Peter Gillquist, Fr. Antony Ugolnik, Dr. Alex Dragnich, Lawrence Uzzell, James George Jatrass, and Dean Popps. For a sample issue, send a tax-deductible donation to Orthodox Studies Project, Ethics and Public Policy Center, 1015 15th Street, NW, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20005. ✠

Compiled by Rev. Remus Grama



## PARISH BULLETIN NOTES

**Canton, OH. St. George.** We now have a Romanian Orthodox Radio Hour every Sunday in our area. The first half hour is in the Romanian language and the second half is in English.

**Dearborn Hgts., MI. Sts. Peter & Paul.** A hard-working crew from our parish went to the Vatra to prepare buildings and grounds for the Congress weekend. . . . We were happy to join in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Fr. & Psa. Surducu on his ordination and their marriage. . . . Four of our youth attended the Junior Camp and eight attended the Senior Camp. Again, Psa. Mary Ellen was Camp Director for both camps. This is her 25th year of service at the Vatra.

**Winnipeg, MB. St. George.** Thanks to all the parishioners who contributed to the heart surgery fund for the Romanian boy we sponsored. He is now on the road to full recovery. . . . Hard-working volunteers looked after the church lawns and helped raise the ramp at the church entrance. . . . Congratulations to Carolyn Rizkalla who has been accepted on the staff of the U. of Manitoba; to Reita Thomas who graduated from the India School of Arts; and to Shoba Thomas & Haney Louka upon their graduation from High School.

**Hermitage, PA. Holy Cross.** Two of our youngsters attended the Vatra Summer Camp.

**Merrillville, IN. Descent Holy Spirit.** The Ladies Auxiliary paid for the materials for complete sets of white, green, and black altar linens made by one of our expert sewers. . . . We had four students at the Vatra Summer Camp, and Psa.

Paula was a dorm mother and teacher. . . . Congratulations to Eleanor Knish who was named "Woman of the Year" by the Indiana FOP Auxiliary.

**Akron, OH. Presentation Our Lord.** We had four students attending the Vatra Junior Camp and two at the Senior Camp. Sr. Camp cooks were Flora Grossmayer, Emilia Pistru and Sabina Kura. Deacon Paul & Silvia Yova helped as instructors. . . . Church School had a fun-filled trip to Geauga Lake. . . . Our grounds have been newly landscaped.

**Southfield, MI. St. George Cathedral.** Six of our young people attended the Junior Camp Vatra. . . . The Cathedral hosted the area Vacation Church School. . . . We congratulate Fr. Laurence on his elevation to the rank of Archpriest. . . . A parishioner donated a beautiful seven-branch candelabrum for use on the Altar Table in the Sanctuary. . . . Sr. AROY sponsored our lovely annual Wedding Anniversary Dinner.

**Cleveland, OH. St. Mary.** Our GEROY and JAROY youth groups have consolidated into one: Cleveland AROY. . . . Six of our youth attended the Jr. Vatra Camp. Marie Sandru was dorm mother and instructor, and Charles Sandru was cook. Fr. Grama was an instructor for the first week. . . . As a money-maker, we are collecting and redeeming candy bar wrappers.

**Youngstown, OH. Holy Trinity.** The Ladies Auxiliary held a festive dinner honoring their past president, Tillie Badila. . . . We donated 122 Care Packages for the Orphans of Romania. . . . Congratulations to Dr. Gregory J. Highison upon his appointment as professor of anatomy at the U. of Nevada School of Medicine.

**Regina, SK. St. George.** Congratulations to Cindy Fritzsche who received a B.Ed. degree from the U. of Regina and has accepted a teaching position in Melfort. . . . and to Ryan Gieni & Carolyn Costron who graduated from High School. . . . Our concession booth at the annual Regina Exhibition again was a success. This project has been ongoing since 1955. . . . Fr. Dan Suciuc and family were on an extended visit to Romania where he was on a special mission for the Episcopate.

**Warren, OH. Holy Resurrection.** The ARFORA Coffee Shop during the Church Congress was hosted by our Ladies Auxiliary. . . . Albums with photos from our 75th Anniversary activities are now on display along with other albums that depict previous activities and celebrations.

**Los Angeles, CA. Holy Trinity.** Those of us who went to host our Church Congress combined a lot of hard work with much fun and enjoyment. It was our sincere pleasure to be there. . . . The Ladies Auxiliary donated their \$30,000 profit made in 1991 to the Building Committee. . . . Congratulations to Corina Sandru who already earned a Bachelor degree in Psychology and now has received one in Film Production, both from UCLA. . . . and to High School graduates Andrea Popa, Edward Andrei, Ileana Buta, Cristian Alecsu and Anna Mitescu.

**Falls Church, VA. St. Mary.** On Sunday, September 6, the parish started a collection which will continue for four Sundays for the Hurricane victims of Florida and Louisiana. \$250 has already been collected. Funds will be forwarded to the Orthodox Church in America for distribution to appropriate relief agencies. ✠

**Compiled by Florence Sirb**



## ORTHODOX BROTHERHOOD OF CANADA (OBC) ANNUAL MEETING

Members of the OBC will meet in annual session over the weekend of October 3 & 4. The business sessions will take place on Saturday, at St. Elias parish in Lennard, and participants will enjoy the hospitality of the parish that day. On Sunday, His Grace, Bishop NATHANIEL, will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Church, MacNutt. A dinner will be offered in the parish hall for all guests. President, Thrisia Pana extended an invitation to all members and friends to participate in the festivities.

## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CENTRE (OCC) MEETING

The annual meeting of the OCC will be held in MacNutt after the banquet following the closing of the Orthodox Brotherhood meeting. The new CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS, sent out to parishes and council presidents, will be discussed and acted on. Each parish is presently represented by the parish priest, the council president and two delegates. The Chairman is the Very Nicolae Marioncu, and Honorable Chairman, the Very Rev. Archimandrite Martinian Ivanovici.

## WRITING

*Continued from page 11*

ment a man and a woman can make to each other. The Orthodox marriage vows specifically do not contain the commonly used phrase: "till death do us part." That is because Orthodox Christians firmly believe that their love is eternal, and that death can only separate the husband and wife from each other in a physical and temporary way until their souls will reunite in heaven once again.

### The Sacrament of Repentance in the Orthodox Church

The Orthodox Church fully believes in the Holy Sacrament of Repentance for the washing away of all sins committed after Baptism. This is done in front of the priest who is bound by the secrecy of confessions. While many people would consider confessions an unnecessary or unusual practice, there is much evidence throughout the scriptures that this sacrament was instituted by the Lord himself in Matthew 18:18, John 20:23 and Timothy 1:20. The Bible also clearly talks about the "need to confess our sins," with the priest representing the "tongue of Christ" as well as representing the community.

Repentance is a process of change, which should consist of the following steps: 1) The realization of sin — Every person must realize their sins, bringing them before Jesus Christ. 2) Feeling guilty, disgusted, and

remorseful with sin — We can feel our guilt only when we fully believe in God's compassion to forgive. 3) The decision to make a change — We must decide and take the responsibility to approach Christ with our sins. 4) The actual confession of sins — We must confess our sins to Jesus with the priest acting as our personal witness and representing Christ. 5) The prayer of absolution by the priest — Prayer is a vital part of the realization and forgiveness of sins. 6) Making a commitment to change — We must make a personal commitment to change and improve our ways, and thereby, fight against sin by drawing up a plan of discipline and decision.

As you can see, the Holy Sacrament of Repentance in the Orthodox Church involves a series of necessary steps which each Orthodox Christian must be prepared to undertake if he or she truly wants to be forgiven and follow Christ's example. Certainly, it is not easy to humble ourselves enough to be able to actually admit our sins before another person, but it is only through confession that we can strengthen our commitment to living as a good Christian person should. Only when you actually experience the Holy Sacrament of Repentance for yourself, will you truly be able to understand the value of this important sacrament.

### Written and Oral Tradition in the Orthodox Church

Our Church is built basically on the foundation of one Holy Tradition with two aspects: written and oral. Our written Tradition is the Bible. It is a Tradition we share with most other Christian Churches. From the Bible, and more specifically, from the New Testament, the foundation of our Church is derived. We would not be Christians without it.

We are Orthodox Christians because we have something most other Churches have never heard of: Oral Tradition. Oral Tradition determines the way we interpret the Bible and the way we practice our Faith. Most of the Oral Tradition was put into writing by the Holy Fathers and was approved by the Ecumenical Councils. Since then, it has been passed on from the Holy Fathers and remains just as pure and unchanged, because the Holy Fathers, many of whom knew Christ personally, were able to contribute information not contained in the Bible.

This is the disciple which testifies of these things, and wrote these things . . . and there are many other things which Jesus did, of which if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. John 21:24-25

Through the wisdom of the Holy Fathers and because of what they have left us, we, as Orthodox Christians, have the assurance that the Orthodox Faith is really the one true Faith, that has never changed.

Congratulations, Regina AROY! ✠



# PARISH REGISTER

## BAPTISMS

- Iddings, Nicholas Daniel**, son of Dan & Mary Sue Iddings, Chicago, IL. St. Mary, Cleveland, OH. Godparents: Tom & Monica Radu.
- O'Connor, Marlene Adina**, daughter of David & Adina O'Connor, Cleveland, OH. St. Mary, Cleveland, OH. Godparents: Letitia & Alex Daringa.
- Pitu, Alexander Mario**, son of Marin & Doinita Pitu, La-Habra, CA. St. John, Woonsocket, RI. Godparents: Mihai & Mariana Pitu.
- Puiu, Cristiana Stephanie**, daughter of Cristian C. & Cristina S.M. Puiu, Los Angeles, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Adriana & Florin Lasca.
- Stanciu, Tiberiu George**, son of Gheorghe & Mariana P. Stanciu, Cleveland, OH. St. Mary, Cleveland, OH. Godparents: Ieremie & Lucica Borzea.
- Taktikos, Maria Elizabeth**, daughter of Angelo & Gina Taktikos, Woonsocket, RI. St. John, Woonsocket, RI. Godparents: Arthur Floru & Penny Michalopoulos.

## MARRIAGES

- Badulescu, Dan B.** and **Berta Aida Valle**, Brea, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: John & Aurelia Fagarasan.
- Cadia, Octavian**, and **Mariana Rotaru**, Van Nuys, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Constantin & Olimpia Draghici.
- Calugarita, Christian Nicolae** and **Any Florea**, Los Angeles, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Elvira & Lucian Stoicof.
- Chindris, Liviu A.** and **Maria G. Ioanette**, Montrovia, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Alin & Otilia Popluca.
- Ciuca, Alexandru** and **Melissa Toader**, Santa Monica, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Petru & Florica Preotesescu.
- Cojan, George** and **Ana Badescu**, Thousand Oaks, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Ionel & Lucretia Roman and Jean & Maria Orsa.
- Draghiciu, Adrian** and **Stela Cretzu**, Pasadena, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Denis & Sandy Caswell.
- Draghici, Constantin** and **Olimpia Preda**, Torrance, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Jon & Stela Cepoi.
- Fagarasan, John** and **Aurelia Horvat**, Los Angeles, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Dan & Berta Badulescu.
- Fagarasan, Theodor J.** and **Doina Valle**, Brea, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Mario & Mavis Theodorou.
- Garnighian, Mircea** and **Cornelia Popescu**, Sepulveda, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Nicolae & Anahid Popescu.

- Guyst, Melvyn** and **Mariana Herman**, Bell Gardens, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Constantin & Viana Hagiu.
- Helbawi, Atef El** and **Corina Iliescu**, Panorama City, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Ken & Brenda Falk.
- Kirani, George** and **Mihaela Cerghizan**, St. Paul, MN. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Nelu & Adriana Botosaru.
- Magdici, Gabriel** and **Elena Marin**, North Hollywood, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Daniel & Elena Costache.
- Marderosian, Mark** and **Daniela Coanda**, Riverside, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Ohanic & Rodica Zagaghian.
- Neagu, Vasile** and **Maria A. Bucataru**, Bellflower, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Tiberiu & Rodica Laica.
- Negreanu, Mihael** and **Ornella Scarpelli**, North York, ON. St. George, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Doru & Valentina Nicolae.
- Nistor, Madalin** and **Tanta Stere**, North Hollywood, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Dan & Mihaela Vasile.
- Olar, Lucian** and **Victoria Soca**, Palos Verdes, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: George & Vicki Ardelean.
- Peres, Joseph** and **Georgeta Gronov**, Tarzana, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Ilie & Ecaterina Daya.
- Petrisor, Tudor** and **Angelita P. Rivera**, Simi Valley, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Rodica & Dobromir Radac.
- Popescu, Dorian N.** and **Mihaela C. Coca**, Hamilton, ON. St. George, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Mihaela Moisin & Florin Sandulescu.
- Stavarache, Robert** and **Hidy P. Peres**, La Crescenta, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Cornel & Valeria Campeanu.
- Stere, Nicu** and **Tincuta, Iuruc**, North Hollywood, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Costel & Daniela Vasile.
- Sweeney, Dale S.** and **Janet E. Zicman**, Van Nuys, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Julian & Mary Lapadat.

## DECEASED

- Baran, Maria**, 77. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA.
- Brezean, Pearl J.**, 96. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA.
- Dutu, Basil**, 73. Descent Holy Spirit, Elkins Park, CA.
- Gaber, Randall W.**, 37. Holy Cross, London, ON.
- Hotnog, George V.**, 73. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA.
- Popa, Lydia I.**, 82. St. George, Toronto, ON.
- Tanko, Stefan**, 40. St. Mary, St. Paul, MN.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

### EPISCOPATE SUPPORTERS

Anita Constant, Chicago, IL. ....	\$ 500.00
Thomas Carto, Warren, OH. ....	\$ 100.00
M/M George Dobrea, Cleveland, OH. ....	\$ 100.00
Fr. & Psa. John Limbeson, Yorba Linda, CA. ....	\$ 100.00
George Bocioaga, Chicago, IL. ....	\$ 50.00
Florence Fenton, Canton, OH. ....	\$ 50.00
Dn. & Mrs. John Schmidt, Indianapolis, IN. ....	\$ 50.00
Georgiana Monda, Salem, OH. ....	\$ 25.00
M/M George Oancea, Louisville, OH. ....	\$ 25.00
Zamfira Posteuca, Wilmette, IL. ....	\$ 25.00

### GENERAL DONATIONS

Dn. & Mrs. Paul Yova, Akron, OH. ....	\$ 400.00
Becky McMahon, Drayton, Plains, MI. ....	\$ 200.00
Fr. Remus Grama, Cleveland, OH. ....	\$ 100.00
(Donation to Summer Camps)	
M/M Constantin Stanitz, Sr., Elmwood Park, IL. ....	\$ 50.00
Vasile Mihai, Jacksonville, FL. ....	\$ 15.00
Dispensation Fee ....	\$ 15.00
M/M Niculai Fedorovici, Livonia, MI. ....	\$ 10.00
M/M Viorel Nikodin, Farmington Hills, MI. ....	\$ 10.00

### MEMORIAMS

Dr. & Mrs. Constantin Predeteanu, Bloomfield Hills, MI. ....	\$3,000.00
(I.M.O. Mrs. Eugenia Lupu)	
Barbara Dube, Windsor, ON. ....	\$ 20.00
(I.M.O. Mihai Manciu)	
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## AID FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS

(Syosset): In a letter sent to all hierarchs, clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, Fr. Robert Kondratich, Chancellor, stated the tragic series of events in southern Florida as a result of hurricane Andrew. The OCA Chancery was informed by the Diocese of the South that some members of our community were unfortunately affected by the storm. The OCA will accept contributions from parishes for relief work and will forward these monies to the appropriate relief agencies. Additionally, the OCA will offer a donation from the Charity Appeal Fund (November is Charity Month) to help with relief services. ✙

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## PARISH REACHES OUT TO MISSIONS

On August 10, the Parish Council of Presentation of Our Lord Orthodox Church in Akron, Ohio, met and voted to help new mission parishes which continue to be established in North America. Specifically, the Council voted to allocate \$200 each month for the period of one year to help support a mission parish designated by His Grace, Bishop NATHANIEL.

Presentation of Our Lord parish hopes to set an example which other parishes of the Episcopate will follow, so that each parish family can be a missionary by helping those faithful who are struggling to get a start as a new parish. ✙



# “EVERYDAY” MIRACLES

**T**here are people who are able to appreciate the large, important things in life, but I don't think I'm one of them. There are people who understand the importance of supercomputers or nuclear fission or space stations and what they'll mean to our future lives. Not me. I'm dazzled by the kind of technology that allows the driver to lock or unlock all the car doors at the same time! I enjoy large, carefully planned and elegant gardens — but a small patch of California poppies growing in all defiance of the odds in an empty field takes my breath away.

I was wondering whether, as our lives get increasingly complicated, God doesn't shower us with little gifts of beauty and simplicity, just to remind us of where we should really be focusing our attention. If it gets harder and harder to find the time to be with God, he finds ways and times for us. For me, it's in the car. In Southern California, it may be a curse that a car is almost as necessary as feet to get around, but it offers a certain amount of time and solitude which can be a blessing too. After getting the household going on a Saturday morning, and dropping off the children at sporting events or doing the shopping, I have a few minutes to myself in the car. No telephone, no laundry, no piles of papers to sort, just the car and me going home. That's when I notice the poppies, or a kid practicing basketball in a driveway with the hoop over the garage door, or someone walking a dog; and, I realize how fortunate we are, and how richly we have been blessed.

One of my Mexican students wrote a short story which brought tears to my eyes. It was about a little boy from the barrio of Los Angeles, who grew up, joined a gang, shot people and became famous, and then went to jail. After getting out of jail, he started helping everyone and became a teacher. How can I be thankful enough for that ending to the story from a boy whose life is not unlike the one he described?

A few weeks ago I drove one of the children to a dog show; and, as I drove home I was listening to some beautiful music and came over a hill to a view of the valley and foothills and mountains behind. We've had what is for us a generous amount of rain, so everything looked clean and renewed. That was pretty dazzling to me too. It was only a minute before the view was hidden, but I'll remember it.

The really big feast days at church, or special events like when the Bishop comes to visit, are exciting and impressive. But maybe the ones that have meant the most to me have been small and quiet, and passed al-

# FROM FAITH BACK TO BONDAGE

**I**n my ten years as Chaplain of the Senate, I cannot remember a **time of greater frustration among members of Congress** and their staffs, or more **expressions of anger from the people**.

Several years ago there came to my attention a quote from a book written by Alexander Fraser Tytler who lived at the end of the 18th century and the early part of the 19th (1748-1813). He wrote a book entitled, “The Decline and Fall of the Athenian Republic.”

Amazing, is it not, that the following quotation from that book, written about ancient democracy, **long before American democracy had been really tested**, is so timely.

Tytler wrote:

“A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves money from the Public Treasury. From that moment on the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the Public Treasury with a result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy always followed by dictatorship. The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been 200 years. These nations have progressed through the following sequence:

From bondage to spiritual faith;  
from spiritual faith to great courage;  
from courage to liberty;  
from liberty to abundance;  
from abundance to selfishness;  
from selfishness to complacency;  
from complacency to apathy;  
from apathy to dependency;  
from dependency back into bondage.”

“For the love of money is the root of all evil . . .”  
(I Timothy 6:10). ☚

**Richard C. Halverson**  
“Perspective”

most unnoticed. What I'd like to do in the midst of all the complications in our lives is just to remember these small special times, and be thankful to the One who offered them to us. Other worthier people can be thankful for the big, important things, and maybe one day I'll appreciate them too. Right now, I'm glad to be rejoicing in the little ones. ☚

**Psa. Nicole Mitescu**



# CEL DE AL 60-LEA CONGRES AL EPISCOPIEI

(continuare din Solia Sept. 1992)

## Vineri 3 Iulie

Cea de a doua prezentare, făcută de Pr. Joseph Foster (OCA), a avut ca temă dedicația fiecăruia dintre noi față de Biserică. Plătirea membriei nu este suficientă pentru a ne chema buni membri ai unei parohii, trebuie să ne purtăm și să trăim așa cum Dumnezeu ne cere și să fim capabili să răspundem la întrebarea "Dece sunt creștin Ortodox?"

Pr. Remus Grama a rezumat în lba. română prezentarea amintită mai sus.

P.S. Episcopul Nathaniel a dat cuvântul Pr. Prot C. Tofan care a prezentat raportul Departamentului misiunilor. Datorită activității intense din ultima vreme a acestui Departament, s'a stabilit un buget separat de cel administrativ. S'au deschis două noi misiuni: în Hazelton, PA și în Sioux Falls, S.D.

Pr. Tofan care va vizita comunitățile care doresc să aibă o misiune, a făcut un apel călduros pentru suport moral și material, necesar înființării de noi misiuni.

## Departamentul de Educație

Dnă Psă Mary Ellen Rosco a vorbit despre taberele de vară dela Vatra, despre eforturile Episcopiei de a respecta și îndeplini cerințele Departamentului de Sănătate care acordă autorizația pentru tabere și despre necesitatea unei intense colaborări a parohiilor și părinților. Parohiile trebuie să încurajeze preoții să participe la tabere, fără a-și pierde timpul lor de vacanță.

Raportul a fost ovaționat cu entuziasm.

## Vineri Seara

Vecernia s'a slujit în capela Sf. Maria în fiecare seară, după care a urmat cina servită în Pavilion și un program cultural ("Florile României") prezentat de societatea "Sf. Ioan" din Youngstown, OH, sub direcția Pr. Remus și Dna Psă Octavia Bleahu.

Au participat trei ansambluri: Orchestra Populară "Transilvania" (Canton, OH), "Junii Brașovului" și "Miorița" din Youngstown (coreograf Gh. Cazan) Invitat special a fost Florin Piersic, director al Teatrului Național din Cluj.

## Sâmbătă, 4 Iulie Prezenți: 96 de delegați Ortodoxie și Ecologie

La invitația Episcopului, Pr. Cătălin Miteșcu, Profesor de Fizică la Colegiul Pomona, Claremont, CA, a prezentat poziția și responsabilitatea Bisericii Ortodoxe față de ecologie. Avem obligația să-I oferim lui Dumnezeu tot ceea ce El a creiat pentru noi. "Ale Tale dintru ale Tale, Ție Ți-aducem de toate și pentru toate." Trebuie să ne schimbăm atitudinea față de natură,

din respect pentru lucrul mâinilor Lui și de teamă că bogățiile pământului se sfârșesc.

## Departamentul de Publicații

Secretarul Departamentului, David Oancea a informat delegații că anul acesta Calendarul Solia va fi trimis prin poștă și cu un plic pentru donație de \$10.00.

## Departamentul de Asistență Creștină

Pr. Prot. R. Grabowski a prezentat situația curentă. Cu un cost de numai \$50,000.00 (cheltuieli de transport) s'au donat obiecte, echipament, medicamente și mâncare în valoare de 35 de milioane de dolari. Parte din acestea au fost trimise în Basarabia iar Const. Mărăndici a fost de un ajutor deosebit.

Asistența a cântat "În veci pomenirea lor" în memoria celor căzuți în Basarabia. În 1992, Parohiile au donat numai \$7,000.00 organizației HFR.

Carol Metes Stevens a prezentat un raport al activității organizației HCR indicând că s'au strâns în total \$320,000.00 din care 150,000.00 se vor cheltui în colaborare cu Project Hope. HCR este acum o organizație fără profit, de sine stătătoare și separată de episcopie. Dna Psă. Delia Suciu a vorbit despre asistența dată în provincia Saskatchewan în adoptarea orfanilor din România.

## Afaceri Externe

Delegații au insistat că Guvernul American trebuie să-și revizuiască poziția față de Arhiepiscopul V. Trifa determinată de Biroul Special de Investigații, mai ales după fiasco-ul cazului Demianiuk. De asemenea, că Guvernul Român să producă dovezi ale rolului regimului comunist în denigrarea Arhiepiscopului și că Biserica din România trebuie să clarifice rolul ei în cazul Trifa.

S'a discutat relația dintre Episcopia dela Vatra și Episcopia Misionară. Consiliul Episcopesc din Martie 1992 a decis instituirea unui comitet care să inițieze un dialog între cele două Episcopii-Formarea acestui comitet este încă în studiu.

Biroul Episcopului a primit informații dela Patriarhia Română și transferul clerului se face acum respectând canoanele.

## Consiliul Bisericii Americane

Delegații și-au exprimat speranța ca în viitor delegații care va participa la Consiliu să fie întocmită din Episcop și un număr restrâns de persoane.

Continued la pag. 15



# CEL DE AL 60-LEA CONGRES

Cont. de la pag. 18

## Rugăciuni de Mulțumire

După masa de prânz, în fața steagurilor, PS Sa., Episcopul Nathaniel, asistat de patru preoți au adus rugăciuni de mulțumire lui Dumnezeu cu ocazia aniversării a 125 de ani ai Canadei și pentru Ziua Independenței Statelor Unite.

## Raport Financiar

În sesiunea de după amiază Pr. Leo Copacea, casierul Episcopiei și asistentul lui, Mark Chestnut au prezentat raportul financiar. Revizori: Firma Hall, Beemon.

S'a discutat creșterea cotizației pentru Episcopie cu \$5.00 sau \$10.00; toți membrii dela 18 ani să plătească cotizație; femeile să plătească memerie ca și bărbații.

Concluzie: Să se respecte obligațiile actuale și să nu se crească nici o cotizație.

Raportul financiar conține bugetul anual, cel actual, bugetul propriu zis și o variantă de buget.

## Societățile Auxiliare

În rapoartele lor, Președinții societăților au reiterat faptul că aceste societăți au luat ființă pentru a sprijini Diocesa, prin diverse activități și prin strângere de fonduri.

### ARFORA

Pauline Trutza a reamintit că funcționarea auxiliarelor depinde de participarea parohienilor.

### AROY

Virgil David Maxim a făcut un apel către cler pentru a iniția formarea de grupuri AROY deoarece din 49 de parohii, numai 14 au auxiliare AROY.

## Frăția Ortodoxă — USA

George Aldea a informat Congresul că anul acesta este a 25a aniversare a organizației și că nu se va face loterie. Delegații au ovaționat activitatea lui Sanda Carulea, fostă Președintă, și faptul că sănătatea ei s'a îmbunătățit.

Dr. Eleanor Bujea a prezentat un raport despre Frăția Ortodoxă în Canada, despre publicații religioase și sprijinul acordat Centrului Creștin Ortodox din Fort Qu'Appelle.

## Hotărâri ale Congresului

— S'a decis vânzarea proprietății donate de John Gligor.

— Se vor scrie scrisori referitoare la soarta populației române din Yugoslavia, Albania și Republica Moldova.

— Se va trimite o scrisoare de recunoștință lui William Broomfield pentru ajutorul dat acordat refugiaților români.

— Se va trimite o scrisoare severă Ambasadorului român în America referitoare la restituirea împrumutului de \$60,000.00 acordat de HFR acum aproape doi ani.

— Silvia Dutchevici, reprezentantă în SUA a Fundației Prințesa Margarita a vorbit despre activitatea Fundației și a făcut un apel de sprinjin.

— P.S. Episcopul Nathaniel a mulțumit oficial Parohiei "Sf. Treime" din L.A., gazda Congresului, Parohiei "Nașterea Domnului" Chicago pentru ajutorul dat Parohiei gazde, Reuniunii Doamnelor din Warren, OH pentru chioșcul ARFORA (cafea și dulciuri), corului Parohiei "Sf. Maria" din St. Paul, MN, Societății "Sf. Ioan Românul" din Youngstown și ansamblului de Dansuri "Isvorașul" din St. Paul, MN.

Deasemenea a mulțumit laicilor: Mike Strugar, Dearborn Htgs, MI; Myra Tocanita, St. Paul, MN; Connie Eli, Hermitage, PA; George Fatsy, Bridgeport, CT; Gabriela Caci, Elmhurst, NY; George Ross, Merrillville, IN.

— S'a menționat că alegerea noilor delegați va fi în Ianuarie 1993 pentru următorii doi ani. Congresul s'a încheiat cu Imnul Ierarhic "Pe Stăpânul." După Agapa de seară a urmat un program cultural prezentat de ansamblul de dansuri "ISVORAȘUL" înființat în 1980 și condus de John Omorean. În timpul programului, s'a deslănțuit o furtună cu ploaie torențială și cu piatră și asistența speriată își făcea cruce. Gazdele Congresului din LA au mărturisit că preferă 3 minute de cutremur decât o jumătate de oră de furtună în Michigan.

## Duminică, 5 Iulie

După utrenie, clerul, în procesiune, l-au escortat pe Episcop la biserică, unde s'a slujit Sf. Liturghie Arhierescă în cursul căreia Prea Sfințitul a ridicat la nivelul de protopopi pe următorii preoți; Pr. Nicolae Marioncu, Pr. Mircea Marinescu, Pr. Simion Pavel, Pr. Laurențiu Lazăr și Pr. Constantin Alece.

Răspunsurile au fost cântate de Corul Bisericii "Sf. Maria" din St. Paul, MN, sub direcția lui Dan Muntean. Corul și ansamblul Isvorașul au venit la Vatra cu autobuzul și pe cheltuială proprie.

După Liturghie, a urmat un Banchet servit de Parohia "Sf. Treime" din L.A. ajutată de Parohia "Nașterea Domnului" din Chicago și alți prieteni. ✙

## NOTA REDACȚIEI

Redacția regretă eroarea de tipar la sfârșitul articolului "Fundația Principesa Margareta" din Solia August 1992, pag. 24. Textul "Așa să nu ajute Dumnezeu" trebuie citit "Așa să ne ajute Dumnezeu."



# AM AFLAT CREDINȚA CEA ADEVĂRATĂ!

Una din problemele cele mai acute cu care se confruntă creștinătatea contemporană este și cea privitoare la varietatea formelor și denumirilor în care se găsește fragmentată. Cursul galopant al fărâmițării și dezbinării ei sectare a ajuns după unele statistici apocaliptice cifră de 6.000, iar după alții este mult mai mare. Realitatea tristă este că sub imperiul satanic al dezmembrării și fărâmițării, al intrigii și îngâmfării, lumea în totalitatea ei și chiar cea creștină, poartă această amprentă a necuratului în lupta lui absurdă împotriva lui Dumnezeu și a lucrărilor Sale.

Dacă sub această formă se prezintă o față a lumii creștine, pe cealaltă parte se reliefează caracterul sacru al Bisericii creștine, ca instituție divino-umană care lucrează în lume pentru mântuirea oamenilor și a cărei activitate va fi mereu prezentă, pe care “nici porțile iadului nu o vor birui.”

Pluralitatea și diferențierea uneori frapantă a confesiunilor și denumirilor creștine, mai ales, a celor de tip neoprotestant, a ridicat în fața atâtor conștiințe creștine sincere, problema responsabilității în fața acestei fragmentări impulsionând totodată ideea refacerii unității creștine ca testament și voință a lui Hristos. În acest contest spiritual a apărut dorința refacerii unității creștine. Așa a luat ființă C.E.B. în 1938 la Utrecht în Olanda cu prima Adunare generală la Amsterdam în 1948 și până la cea de a VII-a Adunare de la Camberra, Australia din 1991, C.B.E. care a ajuns la cea de a X-a Adunare generală în acest an, C.C.P. și alte organisme bisericești și creștine care într-o măsură mai mare sau mai mică, cu mai multă sinceritate sau cu rezerve caută o modalitate de refacere a unității creștine cel puțin în duhul slujirii și al dragostei, dacă în învățătură și principii se interpun deocamdată piedici.

Eforturile mai sus amintitelor organisme creștine la nivel internațional, continental sau local, au realizat progrese în unele părți dar refacerea unității creștine în structura creștinismului primar și a voinței Mântuitorului Iisus Hristos prea puțin se întrevede la linia unui orizont al speranței.

Dar pentru multe suflete sincere și preocupate cu totală dăruire și căutare în duhul autentic al unității sau a identificării Bisericii celei una din multele confesiuni creștine ce-și arogă statutul de Biserică promotare ale adevărului în lumea de azi, calea autenticității și identității cu Biserica primară se poate discerne pentru cei care caută — află, pentru cei ce bat — li se deschide.

În acest context vă vom prezenta o astfel de căutare și găsim totodată fericită, un evrika creștin, o exclamație de bucurie aidoma Apostolului Toma în fața evidenței, a Adevărului indubitabil.

Un mare grup de predicatori, pastori și profesori de teologie din America, de diferite nuanțe creștine: bapțiști, penticostali, adventiști, anglicani, luterani etc., în urmă cu 16—17 ani au inițiat și au pornit cu toate mijloacele posibile instituind grupe de studiu și rugăciune pentru redescoperirea Bisericii primare adică a aceleia despre care Hristos a promis că “nici porțile iadului nu o vor birui.” Acest grup s’a numit inițial “Biserica Legământului Apostolic”, propunându-și de fapt căutarea Bisericii adevărate în pluritatea confesiunilor creștine. Respectivii teologi s’au organizat în patru grupuri de studii alcătuite fiecare din persoane care cunoșteau bine limbile greacă, ebraică și latină. Un grup s’a ocupat ani de-a rândul cu studiul și cercetarea Istoriei Bisericii începând cu Apostolii, un alt grup s’a ocupat cu studiul și analiza Dogmaticii în Biserică de-a lungul veacurilor, altul cu viața liturgică, iar altul cu administrația Bisericii de-a lungul veacurilor. Anii de-a rândul ei au studiat cu toată atenția și responsabilitatea scrierile Sfinților Părinți și documentele sfintei Tradiții. S’au confruntat cu situații greu de acceptat pentru ei care crescuseră și slujiseră toată viața în secte care luptaseră împotriva acestor învățături pe care ei le-au descoperit ca făcând parte din constituția dogmatică și cultică a Bisericii. Au fost momente de încordare, de inconveniențe, chiar de repulsie cu prejudecăți personale dar evidențele și autenticitatea după cum declară ei i-au făcut să abandoneze acele învățături în care crezuseră. Și au dat seama că trebuie să renunțe la lupta împotriva acestor învățături, cum făcuseră până atunci, și că fără acceptarea lor nu pot face parte din Biserica cea Una.

Unii ne declară că la începutul studiilor s’au situat pe o poziție de mândrie și orgoliu personal, încercând să evite adevărurile pe care le reliefa Istoria Bisericii Universale. După lupte interne cu ei înșiși după rugăciune și stăruință sinceră au reușit să culeagă roadele, să distingă conturul curat și autentic al Bisericii celei Una pe care au identificat-o ca fiind Biserica Una a Sinoadelor Ecumenice — Biserica Ortodoxă.

Deși nu au avut contact cu Biserica Ortodoxă tradițională din America unde au activat, dânsii au recunoscut foarte ușor și cu mare bucurie că Biserica

*Cont. la pag. 2*



# HARAMUL MÂNĂSTIRII ROMÂNEȘTI DIN RIVES JUNCTION

“...**D**e pretutindeni adunându-se /Ucenicii cu dumnezeiască putere la Sion au ajuns și au petrecut pe cea mai înaltă de cât Heruvimii care mergea la cer.” (din slujba privegherii Hramului).

Aceeași putere dumnezeiască adună an de an și din ce în ce mai mulți credincioși la mănăstirea închinată “Adormirii Maicii Domnului” din Rives Junction Michigan să sărbătorească pe cea mai înaltă de cât Heruvimii,” pe Născătoarea de Dumnezeu.

Anul acesta sărbătoarea fiind în zi de Sâmbătă, maicile au anticipat un număr mare de pelerini și au închiriat cel mai mare cort posibil. Așa s’a și întâmplat!

Seara la Priveghere (începutul Sărbătorii propriu zise) biserița a fost neîncăpătoare. Slujba a fost oficiată de șase preoți, toți venind de la distanțe mari (Ohio și Pennsylvania) în prezența Prea Sfințitului Episcop Nathaniel. S’a cântat duos prohodul, vocile preoților îmbinându-se armonios cu ale maicilor și credincioșilor. După înconjurarea bisericii în lumina amurgului, toți cei prezenți au fost invitați să ia o gustare pentru a-și reînoi puterile fizice după osteneala privegherii.

A doua zi vremea a fost cum nu se putea mai frumoasă. Prea Sfințitul Episcop Nathaniel, înconjurat de un sobor de 20 preoți și 3 diaconi din diferite localități și jurisdicții, au săvârșit Sfânta Liturghie arhierescă. Prea Sfinția Sa a predicat în limba engleză pentru numărul mare de închinători de alte naționalități iar Părintele Remus Grama a predicat în limba Română, scoțând în evidență venerarea Maicii Domnului la Români, citând din marele poet George Coșbuc, dovadă a spiritului creștin ortodox în literatura Română.



Numărul participanților a fost mult peste 500. Credincioși de toate vârstele care au venit din toate colțurile Statelor Unite. O adevărată “unitate în diversitate.”

La sfârșitul Sfintei Liturghii, Prea Sf. Episcop Nathaniel a rostit un Cuvânt de sfaturi părintești și a înmănat bastonul de păstorie noii starețe a mănăstirii, Maica Gabriela, eveniment important în istoria mănăstirii și moment mișcător pentru cei prezenți care au felicitat fiecare în parte pe noua stareță și au primit binecuvântare.

După Sf. Liturghie toți s’au ospătat dintr’o masă bogată care a fost donată de Fam. Dr. Constantin Predețeanu din Bloomfield, MI, în memoria celor decedați din familia dumnealor.

Taina Sfântului Maslu de după masă, a fost ca și altă dată un moment de revelație. Mulțimile de credincioși îngenunchiază pe iarbă sub epitrahilele preoților cu credința nestrămutată în puterea vindecătoare a Sfântului Duh, prin ungerea cu untdelem.

Un număr de credincioși din Indiana au venit cu 2 zile înainte de hram ca să ajute cu pregătirile și au rămas

*Cont. la pag. 23*



# POPASURI DUHOVNICEȘTI PE TĂRÂM AMERICAN

“Comoară sfântă ne’nțeleasă  
Și raiule duhovnicesc  
Tu ții ascunse multe taine  
De-a sufletului Românesc”  
**Sf. Ioan (Iacob) Românul**

Versurile de mai sus sunt definiția Mănăstirii românești clădită în afara granițelor țării.

Prezența românească pe continentul Nord American se duce până aproape de Războiul civil dintre Nord și Sud însă amprenta cea mai puternică este lăsată odată cu începutul secolului nostru, când cei asupriți de puterea Austro-Ungară au luat drumul pribegiei, răspândindu-se pe tot continentul American.

Așa întâlnim grupuri și biserițe românești din Massachusetts și până’n Regina, Canada; din New York la Los Angeles ca și din Miami la Vancouver. Aceste oaze românești au lăsat înfipte tradițiile și credința strămoșească devenind popasuri duhovnicești pentru cei de aici.

Mai recent, prin voia Bunului Dumnezeu, apar altele noi, ca bunăoară cele două mănăstiri din statul Pennsylvania și Michigan. Prima, cea de la Ellwood City, PA, a fost fondată de Prințesa Ileana a României, cunoscută și ca Maica Alexandra, și cu grija și binecuvântarea Înalț Prea Sfințitului Valerian de la Vatră. Actualmente, M-rea cu Hramul “Schimbarea la față,” la 6 August a.c. a sărbătorit aniversarea de 25 de ani, prin participarea a mai multor episcopi în frunte cu Mitropolitul Theodosie, Prea Sfințitul Nathaniel și un grup mare de preoți și credincioși veniți din aproape toată America.

Deși aproape toate maicile sunt născute aici, păstrează cu sfințenie tradițiile primite, și-n special cele românești, moștenite de la maica Alexandra. Maica Iustina, originară din România, în ciuda vârstei înaintate se bucură mult primind oaspeți români și nu încetează a-l corecta pe Părintele Joseph Morris în învățarea limbii române. Maica stareță Christofora, deși cunoaște puține cuvinte românești, totuși păstrează cu strictețe linia românească lăsată de predecesoarele sale Maica Alexandra și Maica Benedicta, însă cu dorința fermă de-a arăta lumii întregi, valorile ortodoxiei. M-rea continuă încet și nu cu puține greutatea a prospera și a se extinde cu o noua trapeză, noi chilii, lărgirea locașului de închinare ca și proiectul pentru o nouă clopotniță ș.a.

La aproape 300 de mile distanță însă spre Vestul Americii, dincolo de Detroit, în preajma cunoscutei

așezări de la Vatra, la Rives Junction Michigan, se află a doua și cea mai recent înființată (Aprox. de 5 ani), Mănăstirea Adormirii Maicii Domnului. Între colinele domoale ale statului Michigan, această așezare ne amintește de Dulcea Bucovină, nu numai prin peisajul locului dar mai ales prin graiul și ospitalitatea maicilor venite de pe acele meleaguri istorice.

Fondată de Maica Benedicta și alte două maici împreună cu fratele Maicii Starețe, Părintele Roman Braga și cu binecuvântarea Prea Sfințitului Nathaniel, mănăstirea se înalță cu rapiditatea unei minuni divine. La hramul recent de la 15 August, prin voia Bunului Dumnezeu, Maica Benedicta a înmănat stafeta conducerii, Monahiei Gabriela, primind în același timp și binecuvântarea și investitura arhierească a Prea Sfințitului Nathaniel. Ca o minune dumnezească, la această fostă fermă părăsită, a apărut clopotnița și turnul cu toacă, casa de oaspeți, trapeza și atelierul de veșminte ca și un cimitir pentru săraci și multe altele incluzându-se mulțimea pelerinilor din toate grupurile etnice și diferite localități americane. Planurile continuă pentru clădirea unui pavilion pentru slujbele în sobor și-n aer liber ca și multe altele. Mâna Bunului Dumnezeu ca și grija Maicii Dumnului a făcut ca imposibilul să se transforme în posibil, iar locul pustiu de odinioară, într’un popas duhovnicesc de azi. Aceste două locașuri de închinare și viețuire duhovnicească deosebită afirmă încă odată proverbul românesc: “Omul sfințește locul.”

Acest “Comori sfinte, ne’nțelese ce țin ascunse multe taine a sufletului românesc” ne aduc alinări și mângâieri deosebite pentru noi cei care mai simțim chemarea străbunilor.

Sufletul și comoara românească are multe de spus mai ales aici departe de pământul și țara dragă. Ca să o facem nu ne trebuie decât hotărâre, dragoste și înțelegere pentru cei care se străduiesc să o facă și știu să poarte flamura credinței în pământ strein. Este o onoare deosebită de-a avea oameni cu chip de îngeri printre noi. Dar este și o datorie sfântă a noastră de a-i spijini, ajuta și înțelege și din obolul material al fiecăruia să punem o piatră la temelia acestor tezaure nestemate ale ortodoxiei românești și adevărate popasuri duhovnicești. ✙

**Pr. Remus Bleahu**



a pe care ei o căutau era în viață, în toată curățenia învățaturii și a cultului divin și anume Biserica Ortodoxă.

Începând din toamna anului 1986 ei s'au adresat arhiepiscopiei ortodoxe antiochiene din America de Nord ca să fie primiți oficial după o serie de pregătiri, în cadrul Bisericii Ortodoxe. Astfel în Februarie 1987 au fost primiți și miruiți cu toată turma lor de credincioși și curând mulți dintre ei au fost hirotoniți preoți și diaconi. Ei și-au luat sarcina misionară de a face cunoscută credința ortodoxă în America. Așa că ei ce odinioară se luptau împotriva multor puncte de credință ortodoxă, fiind bine cunoscuți în grupările protestante au ajuns să facă misiune eficace pentru Biserica Ortodoxă din America. Ei au editat și numeroase broșuri în care apără punctele de credință ortodoxă ca de pildă învățătura despre Maica Domnului, despre Sfinți, despre icoane, Sfânta Cruce etc.

Au reușit să convertească foarte mulți neo-protestanți la ortodoxie, adesea întregi parohii protestante sau anglicane devenind ortodoxe cu pastori cu tot. Dânșii au fost foarte solicitați în parohiile ortodoxe din America pentru a vorbi la conferințe locale și au avut un efect înnoitor deosebit. Au ajutat la recăștigarea multor credincioși pierduți la sectari de-a lungul anilor.

În perioada 11—15 august a.c., cu bunăvoința P.S. Nathaniel Popp din America de Nord și la invitația P.S. JUSTINIAN CHIRA al Maramureșului și Sătmăruului prin mijlocirea, recomandarea și gândul de bine ai P.C. Pr. Dan Suci, paroh al Parohiei Sf. Gheorghe din orașul Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, un grup din acești aflători ai adevăratei credințe vor face o vizită în Eparhia noastră cu câteva popasuri misionare despre care vom comunica credincioșilor noștri la biserici prin preoții parohi.

Suntem foarte bucuroși că dânșii au acceptat să vină prima dată în ROMANIA, deși au fost invitați în Rusia, Bulgaria, Albania și alte țări cu populație ortodoxă care sunt supuse unor prozelitism sectar intens. ✠

**Pr. DAN SUCIU** **Pr. VASILE BORCA**  
orașul Regina, Canada Bala Mare  
Din Graiul Bisericii Noastre, Aug. 1992

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pentru a doua zi. În fiecare an ca printr'o minune, până la slujba Vecerniei toate lucrurile sunt în ordine, datorită unui grup de prieteni ai mănăstirii pe care Dumnezeu îi știe și îi va răsplăti.

Un număr mare de credincioși au rămas pentru vecernie anul acesta datorită faptului că a doua zi a fost Sf. Duminică. Casa de oaspeți a mănăstirii a fost arhiplină.

Cei care au fost anul acesta prezenți la hramul mănăstirii au observat că numărul surorilor s'a dublat: obștea numără acum 8 maici și surori dintre care 2/3 sunt tinere. Este așa de frumos și încurajator să vezi persoane tinere dedicându-se total lui Dumnezeu prin îmbrățișarea "chipului îngeresc."

Cu toții mulțumim Bunului Dumnezeu pentru o zi atât de frumoasă și înălțătoare. Mulțumiri Prea Sfințitului Episcop Nathaniel care este nelipsit de la Hramul mănăstirii aducând și data aceasta cu Prea Sfinția Sa tot personalul de la Vatra și grupul de copii dela câmpul de vară. Calde mulțumiri tuturor preoților și diaconilor care s'au ostenit și-au slujit și a căror prezență în sine este întotdeauna o binecuvântare. Tuturor celor care ați venit și v-ați unit inimile și vocile în rugăciuni și cântări înălțătoare, Bunul Dumnezeu să vă răsplătească, Maica Domnului să vă ocrotească iar îngerul păzitor să vă numere pașii, scriindu-vă osteneala faptei bune în cartea vieții.

Pentru cei care trăiesc aici la mănăstire ziua de 15 August este evenimentul cel mai important din timpul anului. Pentru mulți alții, pelerinajul la mănăstirea noastră (de fapt și a dumneavoastră) a devenit o tradiție și sperăm că aceasta se va întâmpla și pentru alții care nu au avut prilejul să aibă această experiență până acum.

Binecuvântarea Domnului să fie cu noi cu toți! ✠  
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# ȘTIRI DIN PAROHII

## Biserica Sf. Gheorghe, Canton, OH.

De curând a început transmisia unei ore ortodoxe de radio: jumătate de oră în lba. română, jumătate de oră în lba. engleză.

## Biserica Sf. Petru și Pavel, Dearborn Hgts., MI

Parohia a sărbătorit a 50a aniversare de preoție și căsătorie a Pr. Ioan și Dna Psă Elena Surducu . . . Dna Psa. Mary Ellen a fost din nou Directoarea Taberelor dela Vatra, anul acesta fiind al 25lea de când se ostenește cu grija pentru tineret . . . Un grup de parohieni harnici au fost la Vatra să participe la preparațiile pentru Congres . . . Patru copii au participat la Tabăra de juniori.

## Biserica Sf. Gheorghe, Winnipeg. MB.

Felicităm pe Carolyn Rizkalla care a fost acceptată în cadrul didactic al Universității Manitoba. Deasemenea pe Reita Thomas care a terminat Școala de arte India și pe Haney Louka și Shoba Thomas care au terminat liceul.

## Biserica Sf. Cruce, Hermitage, PA

Doi copii din parohie au participat la Tabăra dela Vatra.

## Biserica Coborîrea Duhului Sfânt, Merrillville, IN

Dna Psă Paula și patru copii au participat la Tabăra dela Vatra. Felicitări lui Eleanor Knish care a fost numită "Femeia anului" de către FOP din Indiana.

## Biserica Intâmpinarea Domnului, Akron, OH

Diaconul Paul și Silvia Yova au fost la Tabere ca instructori; Flora Grossmayer, Emilia Pistrui și Sabina Kura ca bucătărese; patru copii în Tabăra de juniori și doi copii în Tabăra de Seniori.

## Biserica Sf. Maria, Cleveland, OH

Charles și Marie Sandru au lucrat pentru Tabere; Pr. Remus a fost profesor în prima săptămână; șase copii au fost în Tabăra de juniori.

## Biserica Sf. Treime, Youngstown, OH

Parohia a donat 122 de pachete pentru orfanii din România. Felicitări Doctorului G. Highison care a fost numit profesor de anatomie la Universitatea din Nevada (Școala de Medicină).

## Biserica Sf. Constantin și Elena

Impreună cu alte două Biserici locale, Parohia a fost gazda unui Festival din Balcani; Diaconul John, Claudiu Barbos și Nick Șerban au lucrat în Tabere și Ellen Barbos a fost studentă. ✙

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